

REMARKS

The above-noted Election of Species Requirement required an election between five patentably distinct species (as identified by the Examiner), as follows:

- I. The species of Figs. 1, 2, 4 and 9;
- II. The species of Fig. 3;
- III. The species of Figs. 5 and 6;
- IV. The species of Figs. 7 and 8, and
- V. The species of Figs. 10-14.

Upon entry of the present paper, Applicants will have elected with traverse Species I (as identified by the Examiner) including Figs. 1, 2, 4 and 9, to which at least claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9 and 10 are directed.

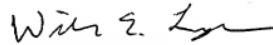
The Election of Species Requirement is respectfully traversed. Although the Election of Species Requirement appears to identify characteristics of different embodiments to which claims of the present application are directed, all of the claims in the instant application should be examined pursuant to the guidelines set forth in MPEP § 803. That is, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the requirement and find that there would not appear to be a "serious burden" on the Patent and Trademark Office in examining claims directed to the non-elected invention since the search for the embodiments of different Species (as identified by the Examiner) would be coextensive or at least significantly overlap. It appears that if the Examiner were to perform a search for the embodiment of Species I including Figs. 1, 2, 4 and 9 (as identified by the Examiner), there would not be a serious burden in examining the other embodiments of Species II-V including Figs. 3, 5 and 6, 7 and 8, and 10-14 (as identified by the Examiner).

Because the search of each of the inventions would appear to be coextensive, there would appear to be no serious burden on the Examiner to examine all of the claims in the application. For this reason, and consistent with office policy as set forth in MPEP § 803, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement.

Should the Election of Species requirement not be withdrawn, Applicants have elected Species I, including Figures 1, 2, 4 and 9 (as identified by the Examiner), upon which claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9 and 10 are readable. Nevertheless, for all of the reasons set forth above, the Election of Species requirement is inappropriate, should be withdrawn, and an action on the merits of all the claims should be issued in due course.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

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